

High school dropouts, by race-ethnicity and recency of migration

As a whole, Hispanics drop out of high school at higher rates and attain lower levels of education than non-Hispanics. The relative recency of migration among Hispanics may at least partially account for this trend. Evidence of the undereducation of Hispanics has implications for developing retention strategies as well as for assessing the educational and training needs of the population. The status dropout rate for an age group (the percentage of that age group that is not enrolled in school and has not completed high school) is one measure of dropping out.

- In 1997, a greater percentage of Hispanics than non-Hispanics ages 16–24 were born outside the United States (see supplemental table 52-1). Among this group, the status dropout rate (39 percent) was higher than it was among first- and later-generation Hispanics (15 and 18 percent, respectively). First- and later-generation Hispanics were two to three times more likely than their non-Hispanic peers to drop out.
- In 1997, the percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were dropouts was lower than it was in 1989 or 1979. Similar changes are occurring for all groups. The gaps in dropout rates between non-U.S.-born, first-generation, and later-generation Hispanics and comparable non-Hispanics were generally similar in 1979, 1989, and 1997.

Percentage of 16- to 24-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school, by recency of migration and race-ethnicity: October 1997

Recency of migration	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic			
	Total	Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Total	11.0	25.3	27.5	21.3	8.6	7.6	13.4	6.9
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	23.5	38.6	44.3	29.6	7.8	5.4	9.2	9.4
First generation	10.0	15.4	17.0	7.9	5.0	5.6	6.2	2.5
Later generation	9.3	17.7	18.3	14.2	9.0	7.8	14.1	5.3

Percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds who were not enrolled in school and had not completed high school, by year and recency of migration and race-ethnicity: November 1979 and 1989 and October 1997

Year and recency of migration	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic			
	Total	Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
1979 Total*	14.9	45.4	51.2	24.6	13.0	11.5	24.1	—
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	34.4	59.9	74.8	30.6	16.1	18.6	15.3	—
First generation	12.3	30.8	35.3	4.3	8.2	7.8	18.1	—
Later generation	13.5	29.9	32.8	18.3	13.1	11.5	24.4	—
1989 Total*	13.1	39.1	45.9	27.6	10.5	9.1	18.9	10.5
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	31.8	51.8	69.9	28.6	11.5	10.2	14.2	12.3
First generation	10.5	25.3	25.2	28.5	4.5	4.0	8.9	5.9
Later generation	11.2	23.0	23.7	19.7	10.8	9.4	19.3	3.9
1997 Total*	11.9	38.5	46.2	27.8	7.7	6.6	12.2	9.3
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	30.8	49.5	60.0	34.2	10.3	7.6	16.7	10.7
First generation	9.5	16.4	22.8	3.2	5.8	5.7	9.9	3.9
Later generation	8.1	24.0	26.8	12.5	7.5	6.6	11.9	3.2

— Not available.

* Total includes a small proportion for whom recency of migration is unknown.

NOTE: People born in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories are considered born in other countries. Individuals are classified as first generation if they were born in one of the 50 states or Washington,

D.C., and at least one of their parents was not. Later generation includes those who were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., as were both of their parents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, November 1979 and 1989, and October 1997.

Table S52(a) Standard errors for the first text table in *Indicator 52*

Recency of migration	Total	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic			Asian/ Pacific Islander
		Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	
Total	0.3	1.1	1.4	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.1
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	1.1	2.0	2.6	3.3	1.0	1.3	2.5	1.6
First generation	0.8	1.6	2.1	2.8	0.8	1.1	2.8	1.2
Later generation	0.3	2.0	2.2	5.5	0.3	0.3	0.9	2.9

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census,
October Current Population Survey, 1997.

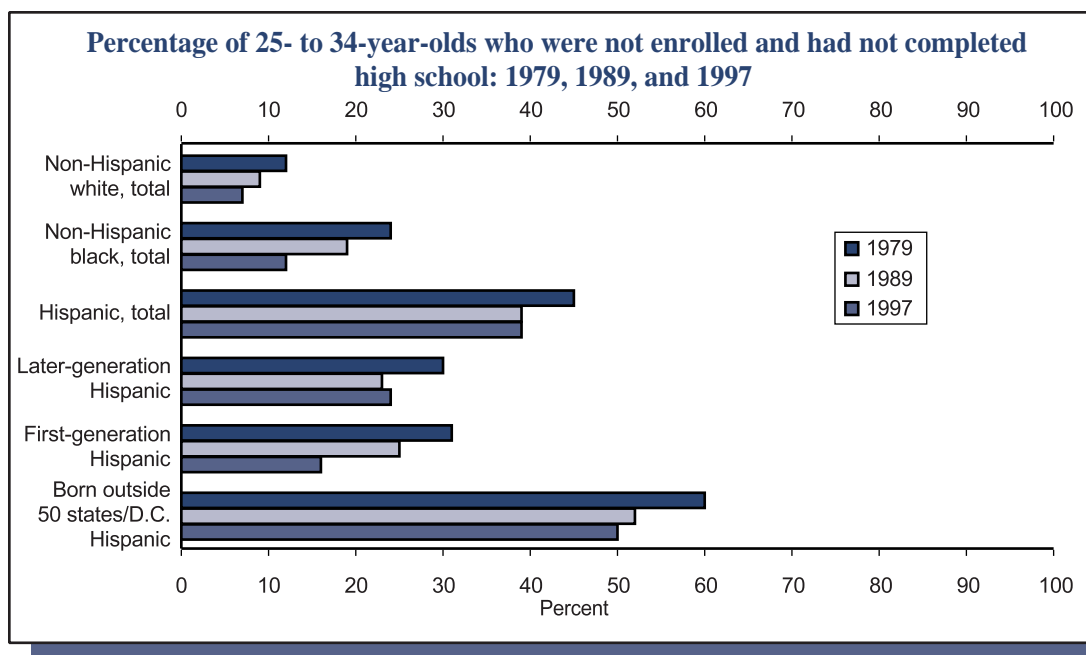
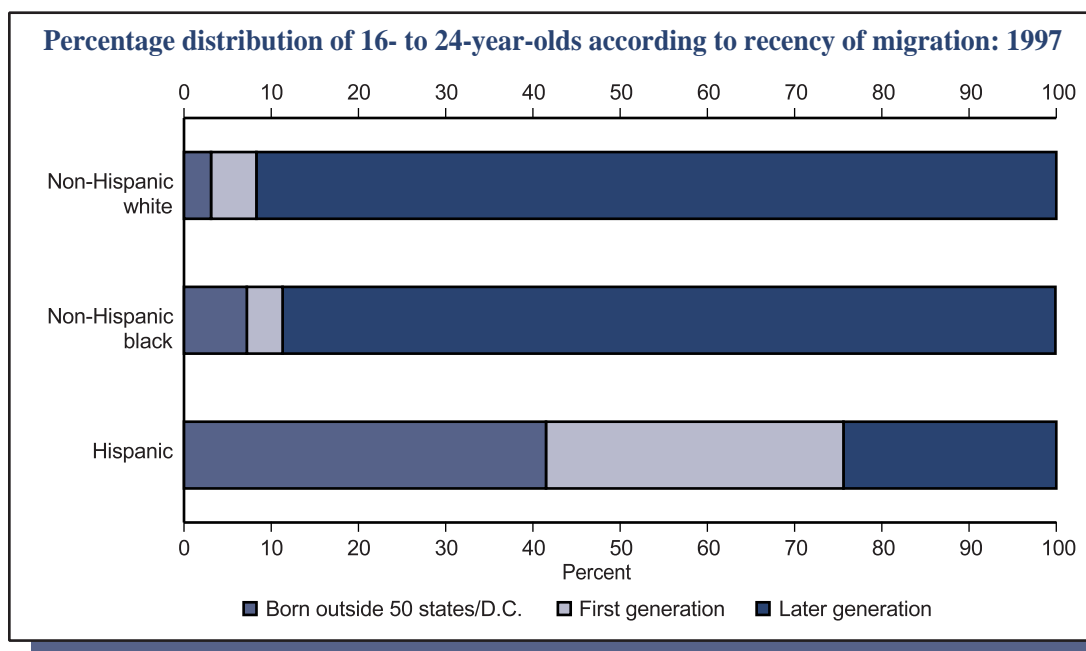
Table S52(b) Standard errors for the second text table in *Indicator 52*

Year and recency of migration	Total	Hispanic			Non-Hispanic			Asian/ Pacific Islander
		Total	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	
1979 Total	0.3	2.0	2.5	3.5	0.8	0.3	1.2	—
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	2.4	3.0	5.3	4.8	4.4	2.4	5.3	—
First generation	1.2	4.1	3.8	5.1	5.7	1.2	9.9	—
Later generation	0.3	3.0	4.3	6.0	0.8	0.0	1.3	—
1989 Total	0.3	2.7	2.8	3.9	0.7	0.3	0.9	1.5
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	2.7	4.1	3.8	4.6	3.2	1.8	3.5	1.9
First generation	1.4	5.4	5.4	14.5	4.1	0.9	5.6	3.3
Later generation	0.3	3.9	4.0	9.0	0.8	0.3	1.0	2.8
1997 Total	0.3	1.2	1.5	2.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	1.1
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	0.9	1.5	1.9	2.5	0.8	1.2	2.8	1.3
First generation	0.9	2.1	3.3	2.3	0.9	1.0	4.0	2.0
Later generation	0.2	2.2	2.6	4.6	0.2	0.3	0.7	2.3

—Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census,
Current Population Survey, November 1979 and 1989, and Current
Population Survey, October 1997.

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NOTE: People born in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories are considered born in other countries. Individuals are classified as first generation if they were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., and at least one of their parents was not. Later generation includes those who were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., as were both of their parents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, November 1979 and 1989, and October 1997.

Table 52-1 Percentage distribution of 16- to 24-year-olds, by recency of migration and race-ethnicity: October 1997

Recency of migration	Total	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic			
		Total	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	11.2	41.5	26.1	37.0	58.3	6.6	3.1	7.2	59.4
First generation	10.2	34.1	57.7	32.5	29.3	6.3	5.2	4.1	29.8
Later generation	78.5	24.4	16.2	30.5	12.4	87.0	91.7	88.6	10.8

NOTE: Details may not add to 100.0 due to rounding. People born in Puerto Rico and the U.S. territories are grouped with those born in other countries. Individuals are classified as first generation if they were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., and at least one of their parents was not. Later generation includes those who were born in one of the 50 states or Washington, D.C., as were both of their parents.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, October Current Population Survey, 1997.

Table S52-1 Standard errors for table 52-1

Recency of migration	Total	Hispanic				Non-Hispanic			
		Total	Puerto Rican	Mexican	Other Hispanic	Total	White	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander
Born outside 50 states/D.C.	0.8	2.0	1.8	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.6	1.7	1.6
First generation	0.8	2.1	2.1	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.7	2.1	2.8
Later generation	0.4	2.2	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.6	3.0

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census,
October Current Population Survey, 1997.